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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[26 May 2014]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Religious Freedom violations for Bahrain

Recommendation:

1. An immediate visit of the United Nations Human Rights Council Special Reporter for Freedom of Religion to Bahrain to identify existing obstacles to freedom of religion, examine governmental involvement in human rights and religious freedom violations and recommend solutions to the systematic violations of human rights and religious freedom.
2. To exert international pressure on the Government of Bahrain to adopt international levels to ensure the protection of religious freedoms and provide international permanent monitoring mechanisms for freedom of religion and worship in Bahrain.
3. To exert pressure on the Government of Bahrain to allow international human rights bodies, organizations and defenders to visit Bahrain without restrictions in order to monitor, report and observe human rights violations.
4. To exert effective pressure on the Government of Bahrain to immediately rebuild the 38 demolished Shia mosques in their actual locations within a published timeframe.
5. To ensure the Government of Bahrain abides by the provisions of the Declaration for the Elimination of Intolerance and Discrimination based on Religion or Belief.
6. To immediately adapt the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. The Rabat Plan aims to provide guidance on how to balance between Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which provides for freedom of expression, and Article 20, which prohibits incitement of discrimination, hostility or violence.
7. To immediately apply the Camden Principles on Freedom of Expression and Equality ("The Camden Principles") to guide legislators, policy-makers and the civil society in balancing the rights to freedom of expression and equality in a non- discriminative manner.
8. To integrate Jaafari teachings in Islamic curriculums in Schools or allow Shia Muslims to teach their children the Jaafari school of jurisprudence.
9. To immediately stop the trial of the Olamaa Islamic Council.
10. To exert international pressure on the Government of Bahrain to ensure impartial legislation, law enforcement and judicial and administrative processes are taken to guarantee freedom of worship and religious practices without any discrimination. Religious and sectarian discrimination can lead to frustration, hostility and fanaticism.
11. To ensure equal citizenship to all Bahrainis and equality in dignity and rights for individuals and groups wherever necessary. In this respect, particular attention should be paid to social groups which are socially or economically disadvantaged to ensure equality and fairness to all citizens in respect to laws, privileges and social measures in force, in particular with regard to housing, employment and health, to respect the authenticity of their culture and values, and to facilitate their social and occupational advancement and integration, especially through education.
12. To exert pressure on the authorities to monitor religious sermons and take preventive measures against preachers and religious organizations that incite hatred and violence against some Muslims and non-Muslims.
13. legislate local laws that prohibit the incitement of sectarian hatred practice or motivate sectarian and racial discrimination in accordance with international human rights definitions; however, such laws could only be applied in countries that practice religious neutrality in the areas of political rights and social, economic and cultural rights of all its citizens.
14. Create Space for meaningful political dialogue to achieve the democratic aspirations of all Bahraini's regardless of race, sect, or social background.